



Public Affairs Officer Chad Cummins addresses the audience at the inauguration of "Samadan," a community library in Bhubaneswar.



Events at a Glance

February 2:

Music: Jazz singer Clare Michaud (Kolkata)

February 3:

Music: Jazz violinist Michael Braudy (Kolkata)

February 16-18:

Music: Classical pianist Roman Rudnytsky (Kolkata)

February 23:

Film: *To Have and Have Not* (Kolkata)

February 24:

Program: Book discussion of Tony Morrison's *Beloved* (Kolkata)

Holiday:

February 15:

Washington's Birthday
(observed)/President's Day



FEBRUARY 2010

KOLKATA BOOK FAIR

February ushers in one of the most popular events in the Kolkata cultural scene--the annual International Kolkata Book Fair. This year marks the 34th International Kolkata Book Fair to be held from January 27 to February 7 at the Milan Mela fair grounds across from Science City on the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass. The Fair is unique in that it is not a trade fair but one for the general public. It is the world's largest non-trade book fair, Asia's largest book fair and the most attended book fair in the world. It is the world's third largest annual conglomeration of books after the Book Fairs in Frankfurt London.



Many Kolkatans consider the Book Fair an inherent part of Kolkata, and instances of people visiting the fair every day during its duration are not uncommon. The Fair also has a typical fairground experience with a book flavor--with the presence of picnickers, singer-songwriters, and cotton candy vendors on the fair premises. Started on a small scale in 1976 by the Kolkata Publishers' and Booksellers' Guild, it counts a footfall of over two million people today.

The success of the Kolkata Book Fair has resulted in many book fairs in smaller cities in West Bengal including Siliguri and Kharagpur, and was inspired, in turn, by the first World Book Fair in New Delhi in 1972. The popularity of the Kolkata Book Fair was seminal in India's being nominated Guest of Honor at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2006, according to the Frankfurt Book Fair organizers.

The Fair traditionally starts on the last Wednesday of January, and ends on the first or second Sunday of February. Starting from the 1990s, the Book Fair has been themed annually, typically on a country--on the lines of the Guest of Honor at the Frankfurt Book Fair. The theme country Embassy is typically given a stall at the fairground center, and many book shops feature their collections based on the Fair theme. The U.S.A. is the theme country for 2011, and will be showcased at its pavilion at the Fair. Various sections of the U.S. Consulate, including the American Library and the United States - India Educational Foundation, will present their services to the public, offering visitors a rare glimpse into the United States of America.

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ANNOUNCES

a 50% discount on library membership during the 2010 Kolkata Book Fair. The reduced rate for new annual memberships is only Rs. 200, plus special gifts. Don't miss this opportunity to renew your membership, and tell your friends and acquaintances about it also!

Contact: 3984-6394-97 and 3984-6398-99 or ghoshdx@state.gov

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Web site: <http://kolkata.usconsulate.gov>
Offices are open from 8 am - 5 pm; Monday - Friday
The American Library is open from 10 am - 6 pm, Monday - Saturday

YOUR TURN

The Bulletin wants to hear from you ... your thoughts, your opinions, your feedback. Write in with
--a report of an American Center event you attended
--your experiences in cross-cultural encounters
--a photo that brings out the joys and sorrows of human life
--a human interest anecdote.



Only email submissions will be considered for publication. The Bulletin reserves the right of submission selection, editing and publication.

Send your submissions by email to kolkatapas@state.gov by the 10th of each month.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Betty Diener, Fulbright Visiting Lecturer at XLRI, Jamshedpur, writes: "I have enjoyed teaching in India during the Copenhagen meetings. I have worked with Al Gore in the U.S. I am teaching environmental management here at XLRI, and we are studying the U.S. and Indian positions. The Indian position seems to be that we don't need to reduce emissions, just slow their growth. My school in the U.S., however, will be underwater if the ocean rises another foot!" Betty teaches at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida.



The photograph shows her on the road from Delhi to Agra.

JAZZ SINGER CLARE MICHAUD

February 2: Kolkata

Clare Michaud trained at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, where she studied with the late Jan DeGaetani. With a repertoire that spans several countries and includes music in seven languages, Ms. Michaud performs jazz, blues, classical, Baroque, and medieval music. She will be accompanied on the piano by Pradyumna Singh Manot who started learning keyboards at the age of six under jazz legend Antio Menezes.

JAZZ VIOLINIST MICHAEL BRAUDY

February 3: Kolkata



Michael Braudy has been concertmaster of opera orchestras in New York City and also a member of the New York Festival Orchestra quartet in Brockport. He has studied Indian violin with Roop Verma, a disciple of Ali Akbar Khan, Ravi Shankar, and the eminent North Indian violin maestro, Pandit V. C. Jog. He will be accompanied on the Tabla by Ehren Hanson.

CLASSICAL PIANIST ROMAN RUDNYTSKY

February 16-18: Kolkata

Roman Rudnytsky is an internationally renowned American concert pianist of Ukrainian background. He is one of the most traveled of all concert pianists, having given concerts in more than seventy five countries. His concert at the American Center is co-sponsored by the Calcutta School of Music.



For all of the above music events, contact: 3984-6324 or basusx@state.gov

Film Show

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT
(104 mins)

February 23: Kolkata



A 40-something Humphrey Bogart and a novice named Lauren Bacall may seem like an odd pairing on paper, but their chemistry in *To Have And Have Not* ignites the screen. A jaded American fisherman risks his life to help a group of French freedom fighters and a sultry young woman with whom he falls in love. Vichy-controlled Martinique during the Second World War, Ernest Hemingway's 1937 novel, and a screenplay co-written by William Faulkner make this one of the most memorable movies ever produced.

Contact: 3984-6337 or pattanayakpr@state.gov

All programs are subject to change. Please confirm closer to the date of the event.

New services recently introduced at the American Library, Kolkata



◆ Personal reading materials are allowed. You can now bring your personal books and papers along with your laptop for use in the library reading room.



◆ Readers' Club: This reading group for library patrons features regular book discussions. Club members meet to discuss and analyze specific works of American writers.



◆ Wi-fi and broadband internet access: Patrons can now use our wireless network (Wi-Fi) facilities with their personal laptops in the reading room. They can also use their personal virus-free CD-ROMs and pen drives in public PCs.



◆ New SMS service: You can now receive the latest information about library programs and promotions on your mobile phone. Please let us know if you want to receive our SMS alerts. Call us at: 033-3984-6394/6397/6398/6399. Or contact us by email to subscribe: KolkataAmLibrary@state.gov

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- You can organize collaborative programs with the American Library. ☎3984-6336/6337
- You can surf the internet and access our online databases.
- You can become a member of the American Library even if you reside outside of Kolkata. ☎3984-6336/ 6337

COMPELLING ADDITIONS TO THE AMERICAN LIBRARY'S BOOK COLLECTION



New Black Feminist Criticism 1985-2000 by Barbara Christian. University of Illinois Press, 2007. 250 pp. This is a selection of essays and reviews by one of the founding voices in black feminist literary criticism. It includes reviews, evaluations of black feminist criticism as a discipline, reflections on black feminism in the academy, and essays on Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Paule Marshall, and others.



The Global Recession Risk: Dollar Devaluation And The World Economy by Carlos M. Pelaez and Carlos A. Pelaez. Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. 258 pp. The U.S. current account deficit approaches one trillion dollars, absorbing 75 percent of world surpluses. A fire sale of U.S. debt could cause a global recession through disorderly devaluation of the dollar, raising interest rates and crashing stock markets. The G7 doctrine of shared responsibility intends to coordinate regional efforts. This book analyzes the main issues and individual regions, including China, Japan, the EU and the U.S.A.



Postmodern Hollywood: What's New In Film And Why It Makes Us Feel So Strange by M. Keith Booker. Praeger, 2007. 213 pp. The book skillfully combines discussions of cinematic style and technique with investigations of more traditional substances--like plot and character--and thus offers an informative survey of recent and contemporary films. The volume gives new insights into every film it discusses and makes an important contribution to criticism on the modern cinema.



PROGRAMS ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED STATES - INDIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (USIEF)

February 5 (Kolkata): "Building Bridges: 60th anniversary of the United States - India Educational Foundation"

February 18 (Kolkata): "Gender Equity in Primary Education in West Bengal and Bangladesh: Educational Opportunities, Achievement Outcomes and School Completion Rates"

Contact: 3984-6310 or sohini@usief.org.in

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"I live rent-free in a building rented strictly to whites, in a section of the basement that was shut off and forgotten during the nineteenth century," says Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, summing up the social invisibility of African Americans in much of U.S. history. From this underground perspective, the Invisible Man attempts to make sense out of his life, experiences, and position in American society.



Black History Month is a remembrance of important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated annually in the United States and Canada in February. The remembrance originated in February 1926 through the effort of historian Carter G. Woodson as "Negro History Week" because it marked the birthdays of two Americans who greatly influenced the lives and social condition of African Americans: former President Abraham Lincoln, and abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass.

The first recorded Africans in British North America arrived in 1619 as indentured servants who settled in Jamestown, Virginia. They raised crops and cattle to purchase their freedom. They raised families, marrying other Africans and sometimes intermarrying with Native Americans or English settlers. By 1775, Africans made up 20% of the population in the American colonies. During the 1770s, Africans--both enslaved and free--helped rebellious English colonists secure American Independence. Africans and Englishmen fought side by side and were fully integrated.

In 1863, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in the United States. However, in the late 1890s, Southern states enacted laws to enforce racial segregation and disenfranchisement. The Civil Rights Movement between 1954 to 1968 was directed at abolishing racial discrimination against African Americans. Finally, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which ensured the social and political participation of African Americans in the U.S. polity. In 2008, Democratic Senator Barack Obama became the first Black American elected to the office of President of the United States. Black History Month celebrates the achievements of the numerous

citizens of African American descent who have enriched the socio-cultural fabric of the United States with their talent in the arts, education, business, economics, sports, and other fields.

Celebration of Black History Month at the American Center Kolkata

BOOK DISCUSSION: TONI MORRISON'S *BELOVED*

February 24: Kolkata

Set in rural Ohio several years after the Civil War, Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize winning novel is a haunting chronicle of slavery and its aftermath, tracing the life of a young woman, Sethe, who has kept a terrible memory at bay only by shutting down part of her mind.

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JANUARY IN PICTURES



Consul General Beth Payne inaugurates an intra-school carnival at Techno-India, Kolkata.



Assistant Public Affairs Officer Moulik Berkana interacts with students and teachers of Madrasa Ashraf-ul-Uloom near Kolkata.



Assistant Public Affairs Officer Moulik Berkana observes the inauguration of an interfaith seminar at Kolkata as Guest of Honor.

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